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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Commodities
Intergovernmental Group of Experts
on Iron Ore
Second session
Geneva, 25 October 1993
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda, annotations to the provisional agenda and suggestions for the organization of work

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of iron ore statistics
4. Review of the current situation and outlook for iron ore
5. Bibliography of relevant studies on iron ore
6. Preparations for the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the report to the Standing Committee on Commodities.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with normal practice, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore may wish to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur. It will be recalled that, at its first session in October 1992, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore was chaired by a representative of an iron-ore consuming country; the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur at that session was a representative of an iron- ore producing country.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

As previously agreed, three substantive items are included in this provisional agenda (TD/B/CN.1/5 - TD/B/CN.1/IRON ORE/5, para. 30). These items appear as items 3, 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda in section I above. Suggestions for the organization of work for the three working days of the session are made in section III below.

Item 3: Review of iron ore statistics

To facilitate the annual review of world iron ore statistics, the Intergovernmental Group will have before it a document entitled "Iron ore statistics 1983-1992" (TD/B/CN.1/IRON ORE/7). This publication was prepared mainly on the basis of replies received from Governments to the secretariat's annual questionnaire on iron ore sent to all States members of UNCTAD in January 1993.

Item 4: Review of the current situation and outlook for iron ore

To assist the Intergovernmental Group in examining the trends and developments with regard to production, consumption and trade, and other key factors influencing the iron ore market, the secretariat has prepared its annual review of the current situation and outlook for iron ore (TD/B/CN.1/IRON ORE/8). In order to contribute to an effective discussion under this item, experts from each delegation will be invited to describe national or regional developments pertinent to prospects for the iron ore market.

Item 5: Bibliography of relevant studies on iron ore

For its consideration of this item, the Intergovernmental Group will have before it the 1993 version of the annotated bibliography on iron ore prepared annually by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/CN.1/IRON ORE/9). Part I of the document contains an annotated bibliography of relevant studies prepared by international organizations and other relevant institutions or bodies. Part II lists studies and publications on iron ore communicated by Governments. Part III contains brief summaries of the studies which focus on iron-ore mining capacity and investments, as well as on aspects relating to the evolution of demand for and supply of iron ore, as well as to environmental issues.

Item 6: Preparations for the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore

It is proposed that items 3, 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda in section I above should also constitute the substantive items of the provisional agenda

for the third session of the Intergovernmental Group. The Group may wish to make suggestions regarding the timing, in 1994, of its third session.

Item 7: Other business

At its first session, the Group agreed to consider the issue of the possible application by the Intergovernmental Group to the Common Fund for Commodities for designation as an eligible International Commodity Body (ICB) for Second Account purposes (TD/B/CN.1/IRON ORE/5, para. 32). As requested, the secretariat has prepared an informal paper in this matter (UNCTAD/COM/14/Rev.1).

Item 8: Adoption of the report to the Standing Committee on Commodities

The outcome of the second session of the Intergovernmental Group will be considered by the Standing Committee on Commodities at its second session.

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

25 October 1993

10.00 hrs. Plenary meeting

After the election of officers and adoption of the agenda, the Group may wish to establish an informal working group to proceed with the discussions on agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 6 in a more informal setting. It is proposed that the proceedings of the informal working group would be summarized by the Chairman at the closing plenary meeting.

The schedule proposed for the three working days of the session is as follows:

- First day: Statistics and information about studies and activities related to iron ore carried out by other institutions and in individual countries;
- Second day: Review of current market developments and outlook; and
- Third day: Preparations for the next session; and other business.

11.00 hrs. and 15.00 hrs. Item 3 - Review of iron ore statistics

(i) Iron ore statistics 1983-1992

For the purposes of the Working Group's review of iron ore statistics, delegations will be expected to revise the statistics by providing their most recent national statistics. The secretariat will endeavor to ensure that a revised version of the document, incorporating revisions and new data, will be available by the end of the session.

(ii) Year-to-date statistics and estimates for 1993 and 1994

With a view to assisting the Group in assessing the year-to-date situation and possible trends for the following year, the secretariat will distribute at the beginning of the session to each delegation a mini-questionnaire in order to collect the latest available data and/or estimates of key statistics for the current and following year. The compilation of the data, as well as of any additional statistics held by the UNCTAD secretariat for the current year, will be made available to participants at the end of the session as an informal document called "Latest statistics provided by delegations during the session or available in the UNCTAD secretariat."

(iii) System of national statistical correspondents

The secretariat will also report to the Group on progress in the implementation of the system of national statistical correspondents for the regular transmission of iron ore statistics to the UNCTAD secretariat. In this regard, with a view to completing the system, Governments which have not yet designated statistical correspondents, or which wish to make changes or corrections, may take this opportunity to do so.

Item 5 - Bibliography of relevant studies on iron ore

The document "Annotated bibliography on iron ore - 1993" (TD/B/CN.1/IRON ORE/9) will be introduced by the secretariat. Representatives from international organizations concerned will be invited to elaborate on their studies and activities.

26 October 1993

10.00 hrs. and 15.00 hrs. Item 4 - Review of the current situation and outlook for iron ore

(i) Secretariat and guest speaker

Following the presentation of the secretariat document "Review of the current situation and outlook for iron ore - 1993" (TD/B/CN.1/IRON ORE/8), arrangements have been made for a presentation to be made by a representative of the China Metallurgical Import and Export Corp. on the theme: "The current and future iron ore requirements in China". It is envisaged that these presentations will be followed by discussions.

(ii) National and industry presentations

Individual delegations are invited to report on recent iron ore developments at national levels. Arrangements have been made for presentations by some representatives from the iron-ore producing or consuming industry. At the same time, industry advisers are highly encouraged to take an active part in the discussions on any specific issue which may influence future trends and developments in the iron ore market.

27 October 1993

10.00 hrs. Item 6 - Preparations for the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore

Item 7 - Other business

17.00 hrs. Items 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Summary by the Chairman of the proceedings of the informal working group.

Item 8 - Adoption of the report to the Standing Committee on Commodities